

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
February 12, 2014

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at the Courthouse Annex in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Mike Wood called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Dinah Bourgeois to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Alex Appeaning, Owen Bello, Jimmy Chustz, Stephen Chustz, Cy D'Aquila, Jr., Jerry Hix, Jimmy Lyles, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau and Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jake Causey, Major Thibaut, Rick Ward and Dr. Carrie Castille.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The council unanimously approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. S. Chustz and seconded by Dr. Appeaning:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2014, be accepted as written and be officially published.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Thomas Van Biersel presented a report of the results of the public forum held at the Cottonport Center, New Roads on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. He informed the council that most of the feedback was positive. He discussed suggestions made at the forum. He informed the council of the renamed website, falseriverrestoration.dnr.la.gov.

Chairman Wood discussed information about a drawdown being made public through mailing.

Engineer Gerald Babin discussed the sightline across the lake and dredging the south flats. He also discussed geometry of the islands as well as equipment to build a containment wall for a levee. He informed the council that containment walls can be built in 6 months. Chairman Wood expressed concerns regarding weight against the walls. In response, Mr. Babin explained to the council of the stability of the walls.

The council discussed the possibilities of planting vegetation.

The council discussed engineer's recommendation of the single island concept and the removal and storage of sediment and dredging of the south flats. After discussion, the following motion was offered.

Motion by Mr. Pourciau and seconded by Mr. Hix:

RESOLVED, That the options proposed for the south flats be sent to the Pointe Coupee Police Jury for their approval.

Unanimously carried.

FUNDING UPDATE

The council discussed finalization of plans for the False River project and funding through BRAC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Bello discussed lake drawdown with the council. He also discussed the use of the parish billing system to inform residents. The council discussed funding for mail-outs, flyers and advertising in news releases.

Mr. Hix discussed identification system for the piers.

Mr. Pourciau expressed concerns regarding habitat and moving forward in grass planning. In response, Chairman Wood discussed measuring water clarity. He also discussed other types of habitat. The council discussed the Corps of Engineers and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources being involved in the planting process. Mr. Lyles suggested that the council establish a plant nursery as part of the planting preparation. Chairman Wood discussed obtaining figures for the nursery. He also discussed benefits from the work of the council members. Mr. Bello suggested natural growing grass in the canal system is a good location to start.

The council discussed outreach efforts regarding the events taking place with False River.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. J. Chustz, meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN